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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/761,738	01/18/2001	Shigenobu Maeda	202009US-2 DIV	8690
22850	7590	08/24/2004	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			LEBENTRITT, MICHAEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2824	

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/761,738

Applicant(s)

MAEDA, SHIGENOBU

Examiner

Michael S. Lebentritt

Art Unit

2824

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE filed 4/19/04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 22-25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 January 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/349,514.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 was filed in this application after a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, but before the filing of a Notice of Appeal to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit or the commencement of a civil action. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the appeal has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 and prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 19, 2004 has been entered.

Specification

The abstract and title of the disclosure is objected to because the term "library" is not in the original disclosure previously filed. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: The term "library" is not found within the specification, and therefore it is new matter. Examiner suggests deleting the term "library".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the

art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The added limitations "storing a library of layout patterns" and "generating a mask pattern for each of the intellectual property functional circuits based on the stored library" are not supported by the specification. The term "library" is not found within the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al, US Patent 5,378,904.

Suzuki discloses storing a library of layout patterns including layout patterns of said intellectual property functional circuits (master cells); storing a diagram of the electronic circuit; generating a mask pattern (column 5, lines 45-50 and column 9, lines 58-65) for each of the intellectual property functional circuits based on the stored library; and transferring each of the mask patterns to a predetermined position on the

semiconductor chip such that the intellectual property functional circuits are adjacent to each other and not overlapping (see figures 7a- 12 and column 7 line 12 to column 10, line 30). Wherein each mask pattern of said plural intellectual property functional circuits has a mark for position; and positioning of said mask patterns is performed by superposing one of said marks on another of said marks such that the intellectual property functional circuits are adjacent to one another and not overlapping. Please see figures 1a-22 and discussion on column 1, lines 10-30 and column 3, line 47 to column 10, line 60.

Claims 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Igarashi et al, US Patent 6,546,540.

The effective filing date for claims 22-25 is April 19,2004.

Igarashi discloses storing a library of layout patterns including layout patterns of said intellectual property functional circuits (column 10, line 14-20); storing a diagram of the electronic circuit; generating a mask pattern (column 20, line 30 to column 21, line 65) for each of the intellectual property functional circuits based on the stored library; and transferring each of the mask patterns to a predetermined position on the semiconductor chip such that the intellectual property functional circuits are adjacent to each other and not overlapping (column 21, line 30-50). Wherein each mask pattern of said plural intellectual property functional circuits has a mark for positioning; and positioning of said mask patterns is performed by superposing one of said marks on another of said marks such that the intellectual property functional circuits are adjacent

to one another and not overlapping. Please see figures 18-27 and discussion on column 14, line 40 to column 22, line 60.

Conclusion

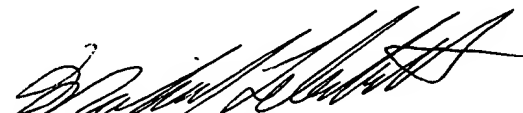
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kurosawa US Patent 4,896,272 also teaches the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael S. Lebentritt whose telephone number is 571-272-1873. The examiner can normally be reached on 5/4/9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms can be reached on 571-272-1869. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Michael S. Lebentritt
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2824

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